

So, the question came to me back around 2012 in the shower at the Dolphin Club (ahh, the memories). Who has swam the most Polar Bear miles all-time? Would it be Vince Huang, who was approaching 40 consecutive Polar Bears, or Joe Illick who was approaching just 20, but was at the top of the miles chart every year? Like most questions that begin with two options, the answer was neither, but my love for the Polar Bear

and numbers got me to actually find out.

Let's just step back and appreciate Vince and his partner-in-crime the late Tom Hofmann, who as of 2017 had completed 38 and 27 consecutive Polar Bears, respectively. Can you think of something hard that you have done for 38 years consecutively? I didn't think so.

Using swim commission records, Dolphin Logs, and reaching out to

members, I compiled some awesome statistics on the Polar Bear. Though not perfect, the statistics are updated through the 2020 Polar Bear. While any day or year in the Polar Bear can be epic, the quantitative history demonstrates the enormity of the Dolphin Club Polar Bear and our dedication to it.

Ted Tilles

Top three swimmers, 1975-2020

1975	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Modesto Lanzone	82 Elmer Tosta	101 George Kebbe	200 Stan Hlynsky	230 Stan Hlynsky	170
Dick Beeler	69 Bill Horgos	91 Laura Merkl	104 George Kebbe	190 Mike Roller	155
Bud Jenkins	64 Pete Neubauer	88	Laura Merkl	121 Pavla Podolska	122
Club Miles	733 Club Miles	2,490 Club Miles	incom. Club Miles	3,269 Club Miles	3,631 incom.
Polar Bears	21 Polar Bears	49 Polar Bears	Polar Bears	61 Polar Bears	64
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	
Mike Roller	217 Patrick Freiling	122 Rich Livingston	128 Patrick Freiling	232 Laura Merkl	174
George Kebbe	91 Laura Merkl	101 Laura Merkl	117 Laura Burtch	152 George Kebbe	159
Laura Merkl	90 Ed Urban	71 Kate Cronin	100 Garage Kebbe	114 Laura Burtch	109
Club Miles	2,916 Club Miles	3,156 Club Miles	4,023 Club Miles	3,567 Club Miles	3,667
Polar Bears	59 Polar Bears	66 Polar Bears	83 Polar Bears	70 Polar Bears	75
1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
George Kebbe	255 Becky Fenson	132 George Kebbe	125 Heather Royer	173 Larry Scroggins	140
Laura Merkl	101 Peter Drino	106 Rachel Elgin	100 Peter Drino	107 Heather Royer	134
Vince Huang	88 George Kebbe	104 Peter Urrea	79 Peter Urrea	102 Peter Drino	91
Club Miles	Club Miles	4,004 Club Miles	3,210 Club Miles	3,521 Club Miles	3,432 incom.
Polar Bears	Polar Bears	80 Polar Bears	68 Polar Bears	72 Polar Bears	65
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Joe Illick	142 Ralph Wenzel	180 Suzie Dods	256 George Kebbe	356 Joe Illick	169
Laura Merkl	107 Joe Illick	115 Joe Illick	204 Joe Illick	186 Laura Merkl	121
Duke Dahlin	100 Suzie Dods	105 Phil Scarborough	168 Ralph Wenzel	133 Tom Keller	120
Club Miles	3,389 Club Miles	3,687 Club Miles	5,027 Club Miles	4,905 Club Miles	5,199
Polar Bears	70 Polar Bears	72 Polar Bears	87 Polar Bears	88 Polar Bears	103
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Joe Illick	152 Ralph Wenzel	356 Nigel Killeen	208 Joe Illick	145 Joe Illick	147
Rick Avery	152 Joe Illick	130 Joe Illick	141 Sean McFadden	120 Lolly Lewis	120
Jon Ennis	129 Sean McFadden	111 Sean McFadden	100 Lolly Lewis	103 Joseph Omran	109
Club Miles	5,166 Club Miles	4,630 Club Miles	3,313 Club Miles	4,291 Club Miles	5,258
Polar Bears	98 Polar Bears	89 Polar Bears	66 Polar Bears	89 Polar Bears	112
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Ross Browne	154 John Nogue	165 Pete Perez	356 Joe Illick	140 Byron Harbour	181
Joe Illick	117 Joe Illick	136 Joe Illick	125 Charlie Cross	112 Mauricio Priet	142
Joseph Omran	93 Ross Browne	122 Duke Dahlin	105 Byron Harbour	101 Alex Migoushov	123
Club Miles	5,562 Club Miles	6,192 Club Miles	7,182 Club Miles	7,273 Club Miles	9,395
Polar Bears	120 Polar Bears	132 Polar Bears	148 Polar Bears	156 Polar Bears	196
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Duke Dahlin	400 Byron Harbour	303 Tom Neill	141 Randall Edward	140 Randall Edward	146
Byron Harbour	161 Tom Neill	138 Randall Edwards	140 Tom Neill	130 Cesar Manzano	120
Jim Ebert	145.5 Luca Pozzi	120 Yossi Ettinger	101 Hal Offen	125 Sal Balisteri	104
Club Miles	8,837 Club Miles	6,827 Club Miles	6,573 Club Miles	7,826 Club Miles	8,598
Polar Bears	174 Polar Bears	147 Polar Bears	152 Polar Bears	171 Polar Bears	197